

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 11, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MALLORY submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of W. Brenton Boggs, have had the same under consideration, and report:

The petitioner is a purser in the navy, was detailed for duty in 1852, on board the sloop Vincennes, one of the four vessels sent to survey the China seas and the North Pacific, &c., and, as purser, had charge of the accounts and issues of the other vessels, as well as of those of the Vincennes.

He has been paid as a purser of a sloop-of-war, at the rate of two thousand dollars per annum, and he claims pay at three thousand dollars per annum, which is the pay allowed to the purser of a frigate, alleging his extra services beyond his duties as purser of the Vincennes.

Your committee, upon consulting the regulations and practice of the department in such cases, have received from the Secretary of the Navy the following letter:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *February 24, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, inclosing the petition, with other papers, of Purser William B. Boggs, praying to be allowed additional pay during the time he was attached to the Bhering's Straits Exploring Expedition, and asking whether, in the judgment of the department, "he has any claim in equity, or usage in law to the amount involved."

The Bhering's Straits Expedition was composed, originally, of the following vessels: sloop Vincennes, brig Porpoise, steamer John Hancock, schooner Fenimore Cooper, and storeship John P. Kennedy.

December 8, 1852, Purser Boggs was ordered by the department to report to Commander Ringgold for duty, as purser of the expedition; and December 15, 1852, he was ordered by the department to report to the commandant, at New York, for duty on board the sloop-of-war Vincennes.

April 30, 1853, (before the departure of the expedition from the United States,) Purser Ritchie was detailed for duty in the expedition, and ordered to the storeship John P. Kennedy, thus leaving Purser Boggs in charge of the accounts of the other vessels, four in all, carrying an aggregate complement of *three hundred and thirty-one* persons.

Subsequently, the following changes occurred in the expedition, viz: in September, 1854, the Porpoise was lost; in August, 1855, the John P. Kennedy was condemned and detached from the expedition, and Purser Ritchie was ordered to the John Hancock; in January, 1856, the John Hancock and Fenimore Cooper were laid up at San Francisco; and July 13, 1856, the Vincennes arrived at New York, and Purser Boggs was detached from her.

Purser Boggs, then, had under his charge, from the departure of the expedition from the United States, in June, 1853, to September, 1854, the accounts of four vessels, with an aggregate complement of 331 persons; from September, 1854, to August, 1855, three vessels, with 261 persons; from August, 1855, to January, 1856, two vessels, with 200 persons; and from January to July 13, 1856, one vessel, with 180 persons.

Purser Boggs received, while attached to the Vincennes, the rate of pay allowed to a purser of a sloop-of-war, \$2,000 per annum. He prays to be allowed the pay of a purser of a frigate, \$3,000 per annum, for the time he was attached to the expedition. The total complement of a frigate is 475 persons; a number which the expedition at no time reached.

In the opinion of the department, Purser Boggs has no claim in usage or law to the additional compensation prayed for, but he may have in equity, especially for the period during which he had under his charge the accounts of more than the complement of the Vincennes, 180 persons.

The petition and papers are herewith returned.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Hon. S. R. MALLORY,

Chairman Committee on Naval Affairs, United States Senate.

Upon this explanation your committee think that the petitioner's prayer ought not to be granted; and they recommend the adoption of the resolution following:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner be rejected.